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no rain the crops are a failure. The Choroti and Ashluslay are restricted to the neighborhood of streams or deep wells in the dry season. The wet season is from December to April or May. On account of the contrast in the Choroti and Ashluslay country between the wet and the dry season and the abundance of wild fruit agriculture is very little developed. Fortunately the trees of the region are of a variety which furnish an exceptional quantity of food.

The first volume deals with the distribution of elements of material culture—pipes, carrying nets, wooden spoons, earthen ovens, drums, etc., among the Choroti and Ashluslay. In the concluding chapters the author sets forth in exhaustive tables a list of cultural elements borrowed by these Indians from: (a) the whites since the discovery; (b) the culture of high mountain and plateau country to the west; (c) the culture of northern South America. After eliminating these elements he finds that a considerable number of cultural elements of unknown origin remain over and represent a remote period. Some are restricted to the Gran Chaco, and these appear to have close connections with the cultural elements of the Patagonian Indians.

From the maps in the second volume showing the distribution of dwellings, platform beds, hammocks, trumpets, panpipes, masks, etc., Dr. Nordenskiöld concludes that the Chiriguano and Chané tribes came from the north and have very close cultural associations with the tribes of the Amazon realm. He thinks that it was in order to facilitate intercourse with the culture of the mountain zone (that is the culture of the Bronze Age) that the Chané wandered southward along the Andes to the more open country of the Gran Chaco where communication was easier, though he does not overlook the possibility that they may have been forced southward by other tribes. The Chiriguano established themselves in their present localities about the beginning of the sixteenth century and quickly picked up the Bronze Age culture from the original inhabitants of the Gran Chaco, whom they conquered. They adopted the culture of the original inhabitants, but the original inhabitants adopted the language of the conquerors. The Chiriguano and Chané thus borrowed heavily from tribes having cultural elements of a more advanced character but borrowed scarcely at all from tribes like the Tobas and Matacos of more primitive culture. A few of their cultural elements have come in from northern and eastern South America. One such is the india-rubber ball game; others are the hammock and the seat, possibly known to them before they migrated to the Gran Chaco. An interesting feature is the fact that they have kept from the time of their migration to the Gran Chaco some things that are of minor importance in their present habitat, for example, fishing tackle.

The author departs from Wissler's classification of the food areas of South America (see map, Fig. 1, p. 264). Wissler recognizes three: (1) area of intensive agriculture, (2) manioc area, (3) guanaco area. The proposed division of Nordenskiöld is: (1) area of intensive agriculture, (2) area of manioc and fishing, (3) area of wild seeds and fishing—El Gran Chaco, (4) guanaco area.

Both volumes close with a very extensive bibliography, and the second volume also includes six bibliographical maps of an extremely useful kind. From them one can pick out for a given region the chief bibliographical sources. The dates of five of the maps are as follows: 1498–1600, 1600–1700, 1700–1800, 1800–1900, 1900–1920. The sixth map displays the archeological literature.

#### THE FRENCH-INDIAN MÉTIS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE UNITED STATES

L. S. HOUGHTON. **Our Debt to the Red Man: The French-Indians in the Development of the United States.** With an Introduction by Francis E. Leupp. xi and 210 pp.; ill. The Stratford Co., Boston, 1918. 8 x 5½ inches.

The purpose of this little book is to prove that the "Indian has done more for us than we realize, or at this distance of time shall perhaps ever be able wholly to ascertain." It is not geographical except as it bears on the question of the part played by environment

versus heredity. Its general method is very simple. Some of the good traits of the aboriginal Indians and their successors are pointed out; then follows a discussion of the Indian half-breeds with many references to individuals and to their achievements. The result is not, perhaps, as imposing as the author believes, but it shows that many persons with Indian blood have done excellent work and have been good citizens while a few have distinguished themselves.

In spite of this, the book is one of the strongest indictments of the Indian ever written. It repeatedly emphasizes the fact that the individual achievements of the race have been the work, not of pure Indians, but of French *métis* or mixed bloods. This is in accord with the laws of eugenics, provided it be true that the average Indian is mentally less alert than the average white man. Crosses of the Indians with the English, as the author points out, have usually resulted in poor, shiftless offspring; crosses with the Scotch and Irish have been somewhat better, while those with the French have produced many able people. The explanation is not the incompatibility of the Indians and the English, as the author assumes, but simply a result of social conditions. Marriage with the Indians was regarded with high disfavor by the English, and such unions as came about were usually between Englishmen of low character and Indian women of a lower grade. Among the Scotch and Irish, marriages with the Indians were not so much frowned upon while by the French they were regarded with favor. Consequently many Frenchmen with the best sort of inheritance married daughters of Indian chiefs. Naturally the descendants of high-grade ancestors on both sides have proved competent and useful, while the descendants of low-grade Englishmen and low-grade Indian women have proved incompetent.

ELLSWORTH HUNTINGTON

#### ALBERTA AND BRITISH COLUMBIA: INTERPROVINCIAL BOUNDARY REPORT

**Report of the Commission Appointed to Delimit the Boundary Between the Provinces of Alberta and British Columbia: Part I, from 1913 to 1916.** 2 vols.: text and atlas. Text: xi and 191 and [5] pp.; diags., ills., index. 10 x 7 inches. Atlas: 27 maps. 18 x 15½ inches. Office of the Surveyor General, Dept. of the Interior, Ottawa, 1917.

This report of the Interprovincial Boundary Commission describes the method of survey and especially the technique of photographic survey employed, the monumentation of the boundary, and the present condition of roads and trails within the scope of the accompanying maps. There is now needed an integration of the cartographic data with data already available from similar work by the Canadian forest service and the geological survey.

Future explorers and students will find the Commission's comments on trails particularly useful. It appears that "any trail, the existence of which has at any time been authenticated by surveyors, packers, prospectors, or other travelers and which has once been marked on the maps of a district, is reproduced on each succeeding issue of such map without further knowledge of the present-day condition of such trail." The present state of the trail is of course a more important matter than the mere location of it. Fallen timber and later growth may have completely blocked a given trail since it was opened. The matter is a special feature here because the coming of the railways and the resulting diversion of freight routes has led to the opening of new roads and trails and the abandonment of many of the old ones.

The report is illustrated by many clear and useful photographs; and it is accompanied by an atlas of twenty-seven maps—twenty-six detailed maps, sixteen on a scale of 1:62,500, eight on a scale of 1:25,000, two on a scale of 1:35,000, and a general assembly sheet on a scale of 1:792,000. All of the maps represent a very high grade of technical skill in drafting and printing.